<u>We Claim</u>

1.   A dried pet food comprising a matrix comprising a denatured protein source, a gelatinized carbohydrate source, about 2% to about 15% by weight insoluble fiber, a humectant in an amount sufficient for reducing brittleness of the matrix; and the dried pet food having a moisture content of less than 10% by weight.

2.   A dried pet food according to claim 1 which comprises about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of the humectant.

3.   A dried pet food according to claim 2 in which the humectant is glycerin.

4.   A dried pet food according to claim 1 which comprises about 3% to about 10% by weight of insoluble fiber.

5.   A dried pet food according to claim 4 in which the insoluble fiber is a cellulose fiber.

6.   A dried pet food according to claim 1 which has a density of about 250 kg/m^3 to about 320 kg/m^3.

7.   A dried pet food according to claim 1 in the form of a cat kibble which has a length of at least 6 mm, a thickness of at least 6 mm, and in which the minimum distance from a center of gravity of the matrix to a surface of the matrix is about 3 mm.

8.   A dried pet food according to claim 1 which has a moisture content of about 3% to about 7% by weight.

9.   A dried pet food comprising a gelatinized matrix comprising a protein source, a carbohydrate source, about 2% to about 15% by weight of insoluble fiber, about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of a humectant in an amount sufficient for reducing brittleness of the matrix, and a moisture content ranging from about 3% to

5   about 7% by weight.

10.   A dried pet food according to claim 9 in which the humectant is glycerin.

11.   A dried pet food according to claim 9 in which the insoluble fiber is a

10   cellulose fiber.

12.   A dried pet food according to claim 9 which has a density of about 250 kg/m^3 to about 320 kg/m^3.

15   13.   A dried pet food according to claim 9 in the form of a cat kibble which has a length of at least 6 mm, a thickness of at least 6 mm, and in which the minimum distance from a center of gravity of the gelatinized matrix to a surface of the gelatinized matrix is about 3 mm.

20   14.   A dried cat food kibble comprising a matrix comprising a gelatinized protein source, a gelatinized carbohydrate source, about 2% to about 15% by weight insoluble fiber, and a humectant in an amount sufficient for reducing brittleness of the matrix, the kibble having a moisture content of less than 10% by weight and a length of at least 6 mm, a thickness of at least 6 mm, and in which the

25   minimum distance from a center of gravity of the matrix to a surface of the matrix is about 3 mm.

15. A dried cat food kibble according to claim 14 which comprises about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of the humectant.

16. A dried cat food kibble according to claim 14 in which the humectant is glycerin.

17. A dried cat food kibble according to claim 14 in which the insoluble fiber is a cellulose fiber.

18. A dried cat food kibble according to claim 14 which has a density of about 250 kg/m^3 to about 320 kg/m^3.

19. A dried cat food kibble according to claim 14 into which a probe, having a contact area of about 1 mm^2 and operated at a speed of about 5 mm/s, penetrates into the matrix for a distance of at least 30% of the thickness of the matrix prior to breaking of the matrix.

20. A dried cat food kibble according to claim 14 wherein the moisture content ranges from about 3% to about 7% by weight.

21. A method of reducing calculus and plaque build up on a pet's teeth, the method comprising administering to the pet a dried pet food comprising a gelatinized matrix including a protein source, a carbohydrate source, about 2% to about 15% by weight of insoluble fiber, and a humectant, the pet food having a moisture content of less than 10% by weight and reduced brittleness.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the dried pet food comprises about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of the humectant.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the humectant is glycerin.

24. The method of claim 21 wherein the moisture content ranges from about 3% to about 7% by weight.

25. A method of reducing calculus and plaque build up on a cat's teeth, the method comprising administering to the pet a dried kibble which contains about 2% to about 15% by weight of insoluble fiber and a humectant, has reduced brittleness, a moisture content of less than 10% by weight, and has a length of at least about 6 mm, a thickness of at least about 6 mm, and in which the minimum distance from a center of gravity of the matrix to a surface of the matrix is about 3 mm.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the moisture content ranges from about 3% to about 7% by weight.

27. The method of claim 25 wherein the dried kibble comprises about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of the humectant.

28. The method of claim 25 wherein the humectant is glycerin.